

MINUTES OF FALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday July 11th 2023 7.30pm

PRESENT. Chair Melanie Cutress (MC) Annie Davies (AD) Andy Pearce (AP) Martin Gapper MG

APOLOGIES Helen Herbert

7 villagers attended.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING. were signed as a true record of that meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR To be addressed as the meeting progresses.

MATTERS ARISING:

1. Stadium Issues

- Euro fixtures would be out in September. There would only be 3 home fixtures with probably 1,500 away fans per match. These matches would be on a Thursday.
- Tomy Majic had only had one complaint about traffic exiting the Bridge car park.
- There would be no parking at the stadium for the Boundary festival.

2. Village Maintenance.

- Falmer pond. BHCC hope to secure phase 2 funding in spring 2024.
- Park Ranger Nick Lane was confident it would happen.
- David Harbottle was making a photographic record of the pond improvements with initial photos being made this summer before any work begins in 2024. Parish Councillors had already agreed that the remaining CIL money ...about £550 would go toward this.
- Marcus White, a consulting engineer, and hydrologist with specialism in restoring historic ponds had been appointed to draw up a plan of work needed to be done. The aim was to get more water into the pond and keep it there. The drainage pipes need to be sorted out. Mud needs to be removed from the bottom of the pond.
- Marcus White will also recommend that trees be cut back, and some removed. The pond banks need to be repaired. There might not be the money for this work.
- Nick Lane would be holding a community information session on Thursday August 11th afternoon by the pond to explain what work would hopefully happen.
- Matt Thompsett had pointed out at a previous PC meeting how a Network rail vehicle had cut up the grass verge at the junction of East St and South Street. MC had seen that this was actually a converted camper van.....a large ex removal van. She had asked the resident of the van if he could avoid cutting up the grass verge in future when parking.
- East street 'no parking' sign had been renewed.
- Ridge Rd potholes had been repaired but not those outside the farm shop.
- The PC's request for the 20mph speed limit to be extended up Ridge Rd had been turned down again. A survey had been carried out 5th – 13th June. This gave an average daily flow of 132 vehicles with a mean speed of 21mph. So drivers were regulating their speed to meet the characteristics of the road. ESCC highways considered Ridge Rd have a very good safety record.
- Southern roundabout faded road markings will be investigated by ESCC.

PLANNING

- Bennetts field Student halls of residences for 555 bedrooms. Planning application LW/22/0175. APPEAL delayed. New date will be announced.

- Polowood Shoot SDNP/22/05978/LDE have applied for a new Certificate of Lawful development. Parish councillors decided to take up Derek Chapmans offer to visit the shoot. Date to be arranged.
- 64, Park Street single storey extension and a side extension with pitched roof. SDNP/23/01743/HOUS. No news.

FINANCE

- The accounts were reviewed.
- The Pc's insurance had gone up because public liability had been added for external use. Eg Attended planning hearing or visiting the Polowood shoot.

ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD.

- Boundary Festival at Stanmer Park.MC and MG would arrange a meeting with contact Charlie Locke
- Sussex University balls had been cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.
- Stanmer park concerts July 5th – July 9th had created no village problems.
- The new local councillor for Woodingdean had contacted MC about hoping to introduce a bus service form Rottingdean to Lewes. This was something for the future and would be difficult to arrange. More children from Woodingdean were going to school in Lewes and it could be a profitable route.

Tithe Barn events venue.

- Fran Woolley had put up a poster in the PC noticeboard with details of how to complain about any barn events issues. MC would also put the details in a flyer around every household before the next event.
- The nearest neighbours Mr and Mrs MacRae and Mr Huxham and Mrs Newman-Starley requested that the PC seek a noise assessment for the tithe barn to check that noise levels were in keeping with planning permission.
- There had been 3 events so far April 29th, May 12th and June 3rd. Of these only June 3rd had not created a noise problem for neighbours.
- Next event July 22nd.
- There had also been a cinema event for under 50 people on Friday July 7th which had created noise for Mr and Mrs MacRae
- Mrs MacRae reported that she and her husband had tried to get a small mortgage to give them the funds to finish off the Old Granary conversion. So far this had been refused by a few banks due to the proximity of a wedding venue. This was very concerning.
- Annie Davis had made 2 complaints by e mail to Mrs Woolley but had not received a reply.
- There was a discussion around the problem of individuals complaining about noise. MC pointed out that usually the authorities wanted noise issue details from residents. Naomi Langford had stated in an e mail following planning permission being given, that if there were problems then evidence needs to be collected to prove excessive noise and disruption.
- The PC would start to investigate having a noise check on the barn.

Next meeting September 26th